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Group 3

State Dept. review completed

# Research and Reference Service

## SOME CURRENT PUBLIC OPINION TRENDS IN WESTERN EUROPE

February 1963

### Preliminary Report Based Upon Early Returns

Presented are preliminary indications from February surveys still in progress. Unless there are significant public opinion changes between early and late February, the final results are unlikely to vary from the figures presented by as much as five per cent. Italian returns are not presently available and will be supplied later.

Special Memorandum  
Survey Research Division

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## APPROVAL OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY...

Favorable opinion of the U.S. appears to be currently at a record high in key respects on the basis of preliminary returns from February surveys now going on in Western Europe.

First, favorable impressions of U.S. foreign policies have increased markedly in the latest survey and now stand at the highest point registered in measurements on this index extending back to 1956. This is true not only for Great Britain and West Germany, but also for France. So apparently whatever reservations may exist in these countries about specific aspects of U.S. policy, general approval of U.S. international actions in the wake of the Cuban crisis is at a record high. The whys and wherefores cited for these expressions of general approval will be available with the final returns.

Table 1. "Have you a favorable or unfavorable impression of what the American Government has been doing in international affairs recently? Very or only somewhat?"<sup>1</sup>

No. of cases	Great Britain				West Germany			
	Feb.	Jun/Jul	June	Feb.	Feb.	Jun/Jul	June	Feb.
	'60 (613)	'61 (633)	'62 (614)	'63 (400)	'60 (599)	'61 (572)	'62 (614)	'63 (600)
Favorable - very	12%	15%	14%	30%	19%	20%	21%	37%
Favorable - somewhat	26	36	35	29	29	42	48	28
Unfavor. - somewhat	15	21	28	12	8	15	13	4
Unfavorable - very	3	5	6	2	2	3	2	1
No opinion	<u>44</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>30</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Net Favorable	20	25	15	45	38	44	54	60
	France				Italy			
	(608)	(659)	(692)	(633)	(591)	(600)	(672)	
Favorable - very	2%	4%	1%	8%	23%	19%	26%	
Favorable - somewhat	26	35	26	38	15	25	21	
Unfavor. - somewhat	22	21	25	20	4	7	7	
Unfavorable - very	1	3	2	4	3	6	4	
No opinion	<u>49</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>42</u>	
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	
Net Favorable	5	15	0	22	31	31	36	

<sup>1</sup> Space considerations preclude a complete listing of trend figures in this and subsequent tables. Figures earlier than those shown are available from the Research and Reference Service, USIA.

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## APPROVAL OF U.S. PEACE EFFORTS...

Also a record level in West Germany and France -- a near record level in Great Britain -- are favorable opinions of U.S. efforts to prevent war. The gain in the latest survey is particularly notable in France which never before in 16 surveys extending back to 1954 has exhibited any appreciable predominance of favorable sentiment toward the U.S. in this respect.

Table 2 "Is America doing all it should do to prevent a new world war?"

	Great Britain				West Germany			
	May '60	Jun/Jul '61	June '62	Feb. '63	May/Jun '60	Jun/Jul '61	June '62	Feb. '63
No. of cases	(1150)	(633)	(614)	(400)	(1010)	(572)	(614)	(600)
Yes, America is	33%	53%	42%	57%	44%	59%	59%	76%
No, America is not	48	29	43	30	31	26	24	13
No opinion	<u>19</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>11</u>
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Net Favorable	-15	24	-1	27	13	33	35	63
	France				Italy			
	(1000)	(659)	(692)	(633)	(600)	(672)		
Yes, America is	29%	38%	34%	46%	not	53%	57%	
No, America is not	49	33	39	32	asked	18	15	
No opinion	<u>22</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>22</u>		<u>29</u>	<u>28</u>	
	100%	100%	100%	100%		100%	100%	
Net Favorable	-20	5	-5	14		35	42	

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## CONFIDENCE IN U.S. CREDIBILITY ...

Next, in this latest series of West European surveys, the U.S. registered record highs in credibility. An increased majority in both Great Britain and France now express the belief that what the U.S. does in world affairs generally agrees with what it says. In France, opinions are currently divided on this score but the present standoff represents a gain from predominantly negative opinions recorded in six surveys extending back to 1955.

Table 3. "Would you say that what the United States does in world affairs generally agrees with what it says, or that its actions differ from its words too often?"

	Great Britain			West Germany		
	May '60 (1150)	June/July '61 (650)	Feb. '63 (400)	May/June '60 (1010)	June/July '61 (573)	Feb. '63 (600)
No. of cases						
Agrees	37%	53%	61%	45%	60%	70%
Differs	45	32	23	24	21	15
No opinion	18	15	16	31	19	15
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Net favorable	-8	21	38	21	39	55

  

	France			Italy	
	(1000)	(671)	(633)	(600)	
No. of cases					
Agrees	26%	31%	35%		40%
Differs	44	41	35	Not	27
No opinion	30	28	30	asked	33
	100%	100%	100%		100%
Net favorable	- 18	- 10	0		13

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## CONFIDENCE IN U.S. LEADERSHIP ...

Measurements on a fourth index of U.S. standing -- confidence in U.S. leadership -- again shows record gains in the latest survey in both Great Britain and West Germany. The gains show up in these instances in the intensity of favorable sentiment rather than in extent -- the record proportions who now express "very great" confidence in U.S. leadership.

It is at this point that France departs from the favorable trend and shows in the latest survey not a gain but a decline in favorable sentiment. But with the U.S. and French leadership so dramatically at odds at the present time what is perhaps surprising is the limited character of the change in opinion since the preceding survey in mid 1962.

Table 4. "How much confidence do you have in the ability of the U.S. to provide wise leadership for the West in dealing with present world problems -- very great, considerable, not very much, or very little?"

No. of cases	Great Britain				West Germany			
	May	Jun/Jul	June	Feb.	May/June	Jun/Jul	June	Feb.
	'60 (1150)	'61 (650)	'62 (1261)	'63 (400)	'60 (1010)	'61 (573)	'62 (1234)	'63 (600)
Very great	8% } 35	15% } 53	11% } 43	21% } 54	21% } 57	28% } 79	24% } 72	40% } 77
Considerable	27	38	32	33	36	51	48	37
Not very much	35 } 51	23 } 32	32 } 44	26 } 34	18 } 22	9 } 11	19 } 22	8 } 9
Very little	16	9	12	8	4	2	3	1
No opinion	<u>14</u> 100%	<u>15</u> 100%	<u>13</u> 100%	<u>12</u> 100%	<u>21</u> 100%	<u>10</u> 100%	<u>6</u> 100%	<u>14</u> 100%
Net favorable	- 16	21	- 1	20	35	68	50	68

  

No. of cases	France				Italy		
	(1000)	(671)	(1307)	(633)	(1011)	(600)	(1344)
Very great	5% } 43	8% } 45	4% } 35	4% } 33	16% } 46	15% } 53	21% } 55
Considerable	38	37	31	29	30	38	34
Not very much	24 } 39	20 } 34	28 } 45	33 } 52	12 } 29	12 } 18	15 } 22
Very little	15	14	17	19	17	6	7
No opinion	<u>18</u> 100%	<u>21</u> 100%	<u>20</u> 100%	<u>15</u> 100%	<u>25</u> 100%	<u>29</u> 100%	<u>23</u> 100%
Net favorable	4	11	- 10	- 19	17	35	33

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## GENERAL ESTEEM FOR THE U.S. ...

The drop in the extent of French confidence in U.S. leadership does not appear to be accompanied by any loss in general esteem for the U.S. In the latest survey French esteem for America continues at a level only slightly below the highest point registered in mid-1961.

West German esteem for the U.S., always high in the past, has apparently edged even higher in the latest survey -- most clearly in respect to the proportion indicating "very good" opinion of the U.S. Good opinion of the U.S. continues the majority sentiment in Great Britain at a level not appreciably different from the preceding survey.

Table 5. "Please use this card to tell me your feelings about various countries. How about the U.S.? ...

	Great Britain				West Germany			
	May '60 (1150)	June/Jul '61 (1283)	June '62 (1261)	Feb. '63 (400)	May/ Jun '60 (1010)	Jun/Jul '61 (1145)	June '62 (1234)	Feb. '63 (600)
No. of cases								
Very good opinion	12%	20%	16%	16%	17%	18%	17%	24%
Good opinion	39	45	43	41	48	55	54	51
Neither good nor bad opinion	30	18	25	25	18	17	19	18
Bad opinion	11	8	6	9	4	2	2	1
Very bad opinion	2	1	1	1	-	-	1	0
No opinion	6	8	9	8	13	8	7	6
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Record								
High								
Net Favorable <sup>1</sup>	38	56	52	47	61	71	68	74

  

	France				Italy		
	(1000)	(1330)	(1307)	(633)	(1011)	(1200)	(1344)
No. of cases							
Very good opinion	7%	8%	5%	8%	19%	23%	31%
Good opinion	33	41	40	39	39	36	33
Neither good nor bad opinion	40	32	33	33	18	20	14
Bad opinion	11	6	7	8	4	4	2
Very bad opinion	2	1	2	3	2	2	1
No opinion	7	12	13	9	18	15	19
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Net Favorable	27	42	36	36	52	53	61

1. "Net Favorable" equals "very good" and "good" opinion less "bad" and "very bad" opinion.

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## COMMON INTERESTS WITH THE U.S. ...

On a question that sought to sound out perceived mutuality of basic interests, West Germany continues to reflect a record level of pro-U.S. feeling in the latest survey. British sentiment on this particular index appears to have declined somewhat from past highs, though still remains at a very favorable level in the net.

The drive of present French leadership for "independence" from the U.S. would appear to be making some headway in the reduced proportion in France who now feel that the basic interests of the U.S. and France are in accord. Opinion at the present time is no worse than split, however, with as many as feel otherwise of the view that the interests of the two countries are at least "fairly well" in agreement.

Table 6. "In your opinion, are the basic interests of (survey country) and those of the U.S. very much in agreement, fairly well in agreement, rather different, or very different?"

	Great Britain				West Germany			
	Feb. '60	June/Jul '61	June '62	Feb. '63	Feb. '60	Jun/Jul '61	June '62	Feb. '63
No. of cases	(1221)	(1283)	(1261)	(400)	(1222)	(1145)	(1234)	(600)
Very much in agreement	25%	25%	22%	20%	25%	30%	23%	33%
Fairly well in agreement	54	55	52	52	50	50	55	51
Rather different	9	11	14	16	9	9	12	5
Very different	2	3	4	5	2	2	2	2
No opinion	10	6	8	7	14	9	8	9
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Net Favorable	68	66	56	51	64	69	64	77

  

	France				Italy		
	(1228)	(1330)	(1307)	(633)	(1170)	(1200)	(1344)
No. of cases							
Very much in agreement	7%	9%	5%	6%	21%	15%	24%
Fairly well in agreement	36	44	42	37	32	37	34
Rather different	26	20	23	30	16	11	11
Very different	8	7	7	9	10	7	5
No opinion	23	20	23	18	21	30	26
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Net Favorable	9	26	17	4	27	34	42

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## SIDING WITH THE U.S. ...

Finally, on a question that has been used to assay the extent of "neutralist" inclinations in Western Europe, West Germany registers a record high in professed allegiance to the U.S. side and Great Britain continues at a majority, or near majority level of support. France continues to evidence -- as it has without exception in surveys since 1955 -- a predominant inclination toward non-alignment with either of the two power blocs. This provides, of course, fertile soil for thoughts about a third force.

Table 7. "In the present world situation, do you personally think that, on the whole, (survey country) should side with the United States, with the U.S.S.R., or with neither?"

No. of cases	Great Britain				West Germany			
	May	Jun/Jul	June	Feb.	May/June	Jun/Jul	June	Feb.
	'60	'61	'62	'63	'60	'61	'62	'63
	(1150)	(1283)	(1261)	(400)	(1010)	(1145)	(1234)	(600)
U.S.	42%	50%	51%	52%	64%	77%	75%	81%
U.S.S.R.	2	3	2	2	*	-	1	*
Neither	46	39	38	38	22	18	18	14
No opinion	10	8	9	8	14	5	6	5
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Net Favorable <sup>1</sup>	-6	8	11	12	42	59	56	67

  

No. of cases	France				Italy		
	(1000)	(1330)	(1307)	(633)	(1011)	(1200)	(1233)
U.S.	30%	31%	29%	27%	33%	35%	45%
U.S.S.R.	7	5	4	5	6	5	3
Neither	51	49	53	56	44	43	36
No opinion	12	15	14	12	17	17	16
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Net Favorable	-28	-23	-28	-34	-17	-13	6

1. "Net Favorable" equals "U.S." minus "Neither" and "U.S.S.R."

\* Asterisks indicate less than half of one per cent; minus signs zero per cent.

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TRENDS IN OPINIONS OF THE SOVIET UNION ...

The marked gains in pro-U.S. sentiment in the latest surveys in Western Europe appear to be paralleled by no less striking gains in pro-Soviet sentiment. These changes probably emanate in large part from the same source -- the avoidance of war over Cuba -- which many in Europe attribute more to Soviet moderation than to U.S. strength.<sup>1</sup>

The Soviet gains are most apparent, in the tabulations following, in the current extent of approval of recent Soviet policies. There is also very substantial improvement in the Soviet peace image, and some increase, except in West Germany, in the general level of esteem for the Soviet Union. Soviet gains are least apparent in Great Britain and France -- and non-existent in West Germany -- in respect to two indices, basic interests in common and credibility.

Despite the gains, however, adverse opinion of the Soviet Union still continues to equal or outweigh favorable sentiments. The one exception is in France where a net favorable preponderance of 21 per cent currently express favorable opinions of recent Soviet actions in international affairs.

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1. Specific findings from the present survey on opinions relating to Cuba will be reported shortly in a separate memorandum.

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Table 8. "Have you a favorable or unfavorable impression of what the Soviet Union has been doing in international affairs recently? Very or only somewhat?"

No. of cases	Great Britain				West Germany			
	Feb.	Jun/Jul	June	Feb.	Feb.	Jun/Jul	June	Feb.
	'60 (613)	'61 (633)	'62 (614)	'63 (400)	'60 (599)	'61 (672)	'62 (614)	'63 (600)
Favorable - very	6%	5%	1%	9%	3%	1%	3%	4%
Favorable - somewhat	23	18	13	28	11	8	6	23
Unfavorable - somewhat	25	32	39	23	19	23	19	14
Unfavorable - very	9	17	28	11	26	47	56	26
No opinion	37	28	19	29	41	21	16	33
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Net Favorable	-5	-26	-53	3	-31	-61	-66	-13

  

No. of cases	France				Italy		
	(803)	(659)	(692)	(633)	(591)	(600)	(672)
Favorable - very	3%	3%	2%	7%	17%	14%	10%
Favorable - somewhat	26	12	10	38	15	15	10
Unfavorable - somewhat	21	33	34	19	5	13	11
Unfavorable - very	6	18	13	5	9	13	19
No opinion	44	34	41	31	54	45	50
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Net Favorable	2	-36	-35	21	18	3	-10

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Table 9. "Is Soviet Russia doing all it should do to prevent a new world war?"

	Great Britain				West Germany			
	May '60 (1150)	Jun/Jul '61 (633)	June '62 (614)	Feb. '63 (400)	May/ June '60 (1010)	Jun/Jul '61 (572)	June '62 (614)	Feb. '63 (600)
No. of cases								
Yes, Russia is	13%	24%	14%	34%	7%	8%	10%	23%
No, Russia is not	62	48	67	48	68	73	67	57
No opinion	25	28	19	18	25	19	23	20
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Net Favorable	-49	-24	-53	-14	-61	-65	-57	-34

	France				Italy		
	(1000)	(659)	(692)	(633)	(600)	(672)	
No. of cases							
Yes, Russia is	18%	22%	20%	38%	Not	25%	23%
No, Russia is not	59	50	53	37	asked	37	38
No opinion	23	28	27	25		38	39
	100%	100%	100%	100%		100%	100%
Net Favorable	-41	-28	-33	1	-12	-15	

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Table 10. "Please use this card to tell me your feelings about various countries. How about the U.S.S.R.?"

No. of cases	Great Britain				West Germany			
	May '60 (1150)	Jun/Jul '61 (1283)	June '62 (1261)	Feb. '63 (400)	May/ June '60 (1010)	Jun/Jul '61 (1145)	June '62 (1234)	Feb. '63 (600)
Very good opinion	1%	3%	1%	1%	*%	1%	--%	--%
Good opinion	12	21	10	12	2	4	5	3
Neither good nor bad opinion	33	26	27	33	23	17	17	22
Bad opinion	35	23	26	24	36	33	30	33
Very bad opinion	12	12	18	13	24	36	37	33
No opinion	<u>7</u> 100%	<u>15</u> 100%	<u>18</u> 100%	<u>17</u> 100%	<u>15</u> 100%	<u>9</u> 100%	<u>11</u> 100%	<u>9</u> 100%
Net Favorable	-34	-11	-33	-24	-58	-64	-62	-63

  

No. of cases	France				Italy		
	(1000)	(1330)	(1307)	(633)	(1011)	(1200)	(1344)
Very good opinion	3%	4%	3%	4%	4%	6%	5%
Good opinion	13	14	12	19	17	18	13
Neither good nor bad opinion	39	29	31	36	20	24	17
Bad opinion	25	26	25	21	20	16	18
Very bad opinion	13	11	11	10	20	15	20
No opinion	<u>7</u> 100%	<u>16</u> 100%	<u>18</u> 100%	<u>10</u> 100%	<u>19</u> 100%	<u>21</u> 100%	<u>27</u> 100%
Net Favorable	-22	-19	-21	-8	-19	-7	-20

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Table 11. "In your opinion, are the basic interests of (survey country) and those of the Soviet Union very much in agreement, fairly well in agreement, rather different, or very different?"

	Great Britain				West Germany			
	Feb. '60 (1221)	Jun/Jul '61 (1283)	June '62 (1261)	Feb. '63 (400)	Feb. '60 (1222)	Jun/Jul '61 (1145)	June '62 (1234)	Feb. '63 (600)
No. of cases								
Very much in agreement	2%	2%	1%	*%	1%	-%	-%	*%
Fairly well in agreement	21	18	8	16	1	1	1	*
Rather different	38	38	34	35	16	15	15	18
Very different	21	30	45	37	66	74	74	72
No opinion	18	12	12	12	16	10	10	10
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Net Favorable	-36	-48	-70	-56	-80	-88	-88	-90

  

	France				Italy		
	(1228)	(1330)	(1307)	(633)	(1170)	(1200)	(1344)
No of cases							
Very much in agreement	2%	3%	1%	2%	5%	2%	3%
Fairly well in agreement	14	14	12	16	11	8	8%
Rather different	37	37	37	38	27	24	25
Very different	21	23	24	24	32	32	30
No opinion	26	23	26	20	25	34	34
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Net Favorable	-42	-43	-48	-44	-43	-46	-44

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Table 12. "Would you say that what Soviet Russia does in world affairs generally agrees with what it says, or that its actions differ from its words too often?"

	Great Britain			West Germany		
	May '60 (1150)	Jun/Jul '61 (650)	Feb. '63 (400)	May/Jun '60 (1010)	Jun/Jul '61 (573)	Feb. '63 (600)
No. of cases						
Agrees	14%	19%	22%	1%	5%	5%
Differs	65	64	61	74	75	74
No opinion	<u>21</u> 100%	<u>17</u> 100%	<u>17</u> 100%	<u>25</u> 100%	<u>20</u> 100%	<u>21</u> 100%
Net Favorable	-51	-45	-39	-73	-70	-69

  

	France			Italy	
	(1000)	(671)	(633)	(600)	
No. of cases					
Agrees	14%	16%	22%	Not	15%
Differs	59	56	46	asked	46
No opinion	<u>27</u> 100%	<u>28</u> 100%	<u>32</u> 100%		<u>39</u> 100%
Net Favorable	-45	-40	-24		-31

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Washington Evening Star

14 March 1963

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# Both U. S. and Russia Gain in USIA Polls

By LEWIS GULICK

Associated Press Staff Writer

The popularity of United States foreign policy has hit a record high among West Europeans but the Soviets have scored striking gains too, according to a new United States Information Agency poll.

The recent rise in pro-Russian sentiment was attributed to "the avoidance of war over Cuba—which many in Europe attribute more to Soviet moderation than to United States strength."

## Still Classified

The USIA survey of opinion in four major European nations, dated last month and still classified as confidential, reported that America still runs well ahead of Russia in popular opinion. It also said:

1. Confidence in United States leadership showed record gains in Britain and West Germany, but dropped some in France where President de Gaulle is "so dramatically at odds" with President Kennedy.

2. Frenchmen nonetheless continue to hold the United States in high esteem, although Gen. de Gaulle's drive for "independence" from America is making some headway and predominant French opinion favors non-alignment with either Washington or Moscow.

Findings of USIA polls were the basis of contentions by Mr. Kennedy in his 1960 presiden-

tial campaign that United States prestige abroad had during the Eisenhower

Last month USIA announced to make public its survey after they are at least one year old. Its stated reason for the delay was to avoid damage to United States foreign relations by publicizing current studies. Under present USIA policy, last month's poll would not be released before 1964.

The new survey said USIA researchers would shortly prepare a special memorandum from the European opinion sampling dealing specifically with the Cuban situation.

## Opinion in Perspective

The report's first paragraph from "preliminary results on the European poll was that "favorable impressions of United States foreign policies now stand at the highest point registered in measurements on this index extending back to 1956."

By subtracting unfavorable from favorable responses among

See POLLS, Page A-3

## POLLS

# Prestige Findings Were 1960 Issue

Continued From Page A-1

those polled, it arrived at these "net favorable" percentages of opinion toward United States foreign policy:

	Brit.	W. Ger.	Fr.	Italy
February, 1960	20	38	5	31
June-July, 1961	25	44	15	31
June, 1962	15	34	0	36
February, 1963	45	60	20	*

\*Not given.

On "confidence . . . in the ability of the United States to provide wise leadership for the West in dealing with present world problems," the February, 1963, responses ranged from a plus 68 per cent net favorable in Germany to 10 per cent in Britain and a minus 10 per cent in France.

The figures all represented gains over May, 1960, except in France, where the decline was described as "limited."

As for West European opinion of the Soviets, the survey said:

"The marked gains in pro-United States sentiment in the latest surveys in Western Europe appear to be paralleled by no less striking gains in pro-Soviet sentiment . . .

"The Soviet gains are most apparent . . . in the current extent of approval of recent Soviet policies. There is also very substantial improvement in the Soviet peace image, and some increase, except in West Germany, in the general level of esteem for the Soviet Union."

## Other Findings

The study found the "net favorable" impressions of Soviet international conduct from

June, 1962, to February, 1963, switched from minus 53 per cent to plus 3 per cent in Britain, from minus 66 to minus 13 in Germany and from minus 35 to plus 21 in France.

The percentages of those saying their country's basic interests agree with America's dropped some in France and Britain between February, 1960, and February, 1963, but climbed in Germany and Italy the poll indicated.

The "net favorable" rate slipped from 68 per cent to 51 per cent in Britain and from 9 to 4 per cent in France, while in Germany it rose from 64 to 77 per cent. The Italian response went from 27 per cent in February to 42 per cent in June, 1962, the latest count listed for Italy.

In probing for neutralist inclinations among the Europeans, the USIA polls asked whether the respondents thought their country should side with the United States, with Russia, or with neither. The "net favorable" percentages were derived by subtracting the pro-Soviet and "neither" answers from the pro-United States.

On this, the count between May, 1960, and last month went from minus 6 to plus 12 in Britain, from plus 42 to plus 67 in Germany, and from minus 28 to minus 34 in France. The bulk of the French minuses came from those favoring nonalignment.

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*Western Ed.*  
*14 March '63*  
**PRESTIGE OF U.S.  
 RISING IN EUROPE**

**Foreign Policy Rated High  
 in Polls of 3 Countries**

By E. W. KENWORTHY  
 Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 13—Favorable opinion of United States conduct in foreign affairs stands at a record high in three Western European nations, according to the most recent surveys made by the United States Information Agency. The results of "prestige polls" made available today were based on samplings of public opinion during February in Britain, West Germany and France. Returns from the surveys in Italy were not yet available.

During the 1960 Presidential campaign, Republicans sharply criticized the way that Senator John F. Kennedy, the Democratic candidate, made use of polls that showed declines in United States prestige abroad.

Republican leaders on Capitol Hill have recently been turning this argument on President Kennedy, but without being able to cite evidence from polls taken by the Administration.

On Feb. 21 President Kennedy told his news conference that there were several polls not involving prestige that he thought it would be unwise to make public. As for polls reflecting opinion about the United States, the President said that these could be released at intervals.

**Whole Range Covered**

Probably the most significant poll obtained today, in view of the Cuban crisis last fall and the crisis in the Atlantic Alliance occasioned by President de Gaulle's veto last January of British membership in the Common Market, involved the whole range of United States foreign policy.

Those interviewed were asked whether they had a favorable or unfavorable impression "of what the United States Government has been doing in international affairs recently."

In Britain, 30 per cent answered "very favorable" and 29 per cent "somewhat favorable." Thirteen per cent reported "somewhat unfavorable," and 2 per cent "very unfavorable."

In West Germany, 37 per cent answered "very favorable" and 28 per cent "somewhat favorable" as against 4 per cent "somewhat unfavorable" and 1 per cent "very unfavorable."

In France, only 3 per cent had a "very favorable view," but 39 per cent had a "somewhat favorable" impression. On the other hand, 15 per cent had a "somewhat unfavorable" and 4 per cent a "very unfavorable" opinion. The rest had no opinion.

**Highest Back to 1956**

These figures of approval were the highest registered on this particular question back to 1956.

In June, 1962, the figures on "very favorable" and "somewhat favorable" in Britain were 14 and 35 per cent respectively; in West Germany, 21 and 48, and in France, 1 and 26 per cent.

Although approval of United States conduct in foreign affairs was at its highest in the sampled countries, approval of

the Soviet Union's conduct also showed "striking gains," the U.S.I.A. reported.

The agency commented:

"These changes probably emanate in large part from the same source—the avoidance of war over Cuba—which many in Europe attribute more to Soviet moderation than to United States strength.

"The Soviet gains are most apparent in the current extent of approval of recent Soviet policies. There is also very substantial improvement in the Soviet peace image, and some increase, except in West Germany, in the general level of esteem for the Soviet Union. Soviet gains are least apparent in Great Britain and France, and nonexistent in West Germany—in respect to two indices, basic interests in common and credibility."

The agency noted, however, that despite the Soviet gains, "adverse opinion of the Soviet Union still continued to equal or outweigh favorable sentiments."

In Britain, 9 per cent took a "very favorable" view of Soviet conduct in foreign affairs recently, and 28 per cent a "somewhat favorable" view, as against 28 per cent "somewhat unfavorable" and 11 per cent "very unfavorable." In June, 1962, only 1 per cent was "very unfavorable" and 13 per cent "somewhat favorable."

In West Germany, 4 per cent were "very favorable" and 23 per cent "somewhat favorable"; 26 per cent were "somewhat unfavorable" and 33 per cent "very unfavorable." In 1962, 3 per cent were "very favorable" and 6 per cent "somewhat favorable."

In France, 7 per cent were "very favorable" and 36 per cent "somewhat favorable" as against 19 per cent "somewhat unfavorable" and 8 per cent "very unfavorable."